Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 00079 071214Z

53
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00

EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 INT-05 OMB-01 OES-03 STR-01

TRSE-00 FRB-01 ACDA-05 /091 W
---------- 078986
R 071030Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1878
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0079

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR ENRG KU US
SUBJ: KUWAITI REACTION TO SECRETARY'S BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW

1. DURING MY CALL ON FONMIN SABAH AL-AHMAD JAN 6 CONVERSATION TURNED TO SECRETARY'S INTERVIEW IN "BUSINESS WEEK". SABAH (WHO ALSO IS ACTING MININFORMATION) SAID HE HAD PARRIED INSISTENT PRESS INQUIRIES RE GOK REACTION TO SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON POSSIBILITY OF US MILITARY ACTION, BECAUSE GOK HAD NO WISH FURTHER STIR THE POT. HOWEVER, HE OPINED, THOSE EUROPEANS HAD RIGHT ANSWER WHO HAD DISASSOCIATED THEMSELVES FROM THESE STATEMENTS. PERSONALLY, SABAH WENT ON, HE WAS NOT WORRIED BY THEM BUT CONSIDERED THEM REGRETTABLE, HARMFUL AND UNNECESSARY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 00079 071214Z

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

2. I ASKED FONMIN IF HE HAD READ ACCURATE TEXTS OF SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS ON SUBJECT. SABAH REPLIED HE HAD INDEED; HE HAD STUDIED THEM FULLY AND CAREFULLY, INCLUDING CLARIFICATIONS. OF COURSE MANY STATES, HE OBSERVED, ESPECIALLY LARGE ONES SUCH AS US, PLANNED FOR EVERY CONTINGENCY. "WE ARE NOT CHILDREN NOT TO KNOW THAT." ALL THE MORE REASON, HE SAID, NOT TO MAKE ULTIMATE AND MOST REMOTE CONTINGENCY A PUBLIC ISSUE.

3. I SAID IT DID NOT STRIKE ME AT ALL THAT SECRETARY WAS MAKING POSSIBILITY OF US MILITARY ACTION A PUBLIC ISSUE. SECRETARY HAD ADDRESSED HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION IN ALL HONESTY AND CANDOR. I RECALLED THAT FROM VERY OUTSET OF HIS PRESIDENCY, PRESIDENT FORD HAD PROMISED OPEN ADMINISTRATION, AND TO BE RESPONSIVE TO OBVIOUSLY DEEP DESIRE OF AMERICAN PEOPLE TO BE TOLD WHAT OUR LEADERS WERE THINKING AND DOING. SECRETARY HAD BEEN RELENTLESSLY PURSUED BY PRESS AND HAD RESPONDED WITH CLEAR AND PERFECTLY REASONABLE POSITION ON HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION. KUWAITI FONMIN SAID NEVERTHELESS MIDEAST GOING THROUGH AGONIZINGLY SENSITIVE PERIOD, AND IT WAS WRONG TO AIR THOUGHTS OF MILITARY FORCE AT SUCH A TIME.

4. I TOLD SABAH I THOUGHT HE WAS RIGHT IN AVOIDING PUBLIC COMMENT ON "BUSINESS WEEK" INTERVIEW. IN FACT, I ADDED, SEEMED TO ME GOK PUBLIC POSTURE IN GENERAL HAD BEEN NOTABLY AND AGREEABLY RESTRAINED IN RECENT MONTHS IN COMPARISON WITH PAST. SABAH REPLIED HE HAD INSTITUTED WEEKLY PRESS BRIEFINGS WITH CLEAR RULES ON ATTRIBUTION, ETC., AND THESE SEEMED TO BE WORKING OUT QUITE WELL. FONMIN WOUND UP WITH PLEA FOR "WISDOM" AND UTMOST DISCRETION ON EVERYBODY'S PART DURING THESE CRITICAL TIMES. STOLTZFUS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, THREATS, PRESS CONFERENCES, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUWAIT00079
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750006-0173
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750173/aaaacmgd.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KUWAITI REACTION TO SECRETARY'S BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, KU, US, (AL-AHMAD, SABAH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006